

## State Seal and State Emblems



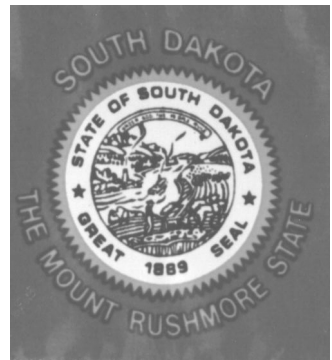
The design of **the Great Seal of South Dakota** is provided for in Article XXI of the State Constitution. It bears the motto: "Under God the People Rule" and the year in which the state was admitted to the Union, 1889.

The seal serves as a symbol of life in South Dakota. The plowman and the field of corn symbolizes farming, the smelting furnace depicts the mining industry, the cattle feeding on the plain represents ranching and dairying, the steamboat designates transportation and commerce, the trees indicate lumbering, the building portrays manufacturing, the river denotes the Missouri River, and the hills in the background identify the Black Hills.

### State Flag and Pledge

The South Dakota flag features the state seal surrounded by a golden blazing sun in a field of sky blue. Letters reading "South Dakota, The Mount Rushmore State" -- the official state nickname -- are arranged in a circle around the sun.

The official pledge to the state flag is: "I pledge loyalty and support to the flag and state of South Dakota, land of sunshine, land of infinite variety."



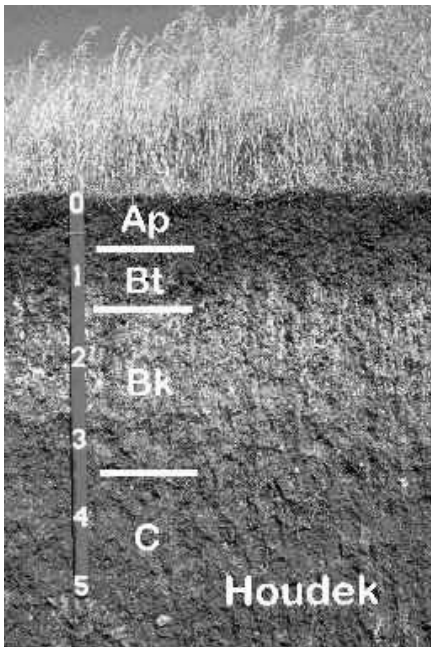
The pledge to the flag and to the state may not preempt, replace or be recited before the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States.

**State Animal - Coyote** (*Canis latrans*)

A natural predator of small game and rodents, the adaptable coyote hunts the open prairies and fields over the entire state, but occurs in greatest numbers along the Missouri River, its tributaries and in the Black Hills.

**State Bird - Ring-Neck Pheasant**

(*Phasianus colchicus*) was introduced to South Dakota in 1898. Easily recognized by its colorful plumage, the pheasant is also known for its delicious meat. Since it is primarily a Midwestern bird, pheasant is considered a delicacy in many states.



**State Soil - Houdek Soil** (fine-loamy, mixed, mesic typic argiustolls) was designated the state soil in 1990.

**State Drink-Milk** (lac vaccin) was adopted as the official state drink in 1986.



### **State Insect - Honey Bee**

(*Apis mellifera* L) South Dakota is a leader in honey production. In recognition of its importance to the state's farm economy, the honey bee was adopted as the state insect in 1978. The state's mild clear clover honey is often shipped out-of-state to be blended with darker honey.

### **State Fossil - The Triceratops**

A horned dinosaur of the late Cretaceous period (approximately 68 million years ago), is the state fossil. It was a vegetation-eating dinosaur and used its horns for defense. Discovered in Harding County in 1927, the skeleton is now on display in the Museum of Geology in Rapid City.

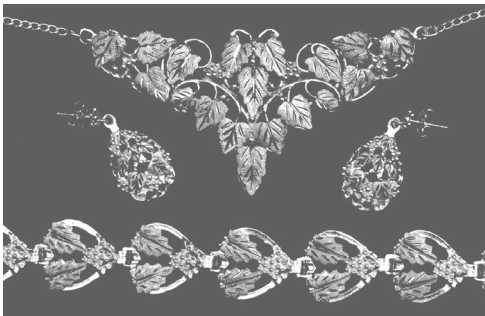


**State Grass - Western Wheat**

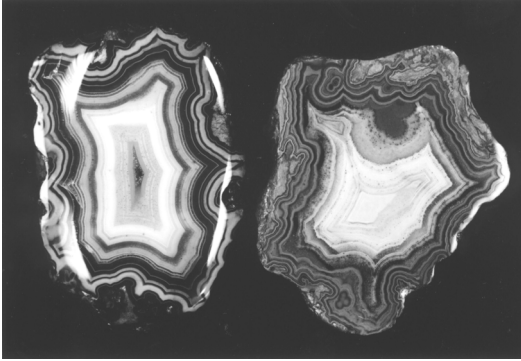
(*Agropyron smithii*) is a common grass to South Dakota, grown primarily as feed for livestock but also harvested for its seed.

**State Flower - American Pasque**

(*Pulsatilla hirsutissima*) is also called the May Day flower. It grows wild throughout the state and its blooming is one of the first signs of spring in South Dakota. A member of the anemone family, the Pasque is a five-petaled lavender flower.

**State Jewelry - Black Hills Gold**

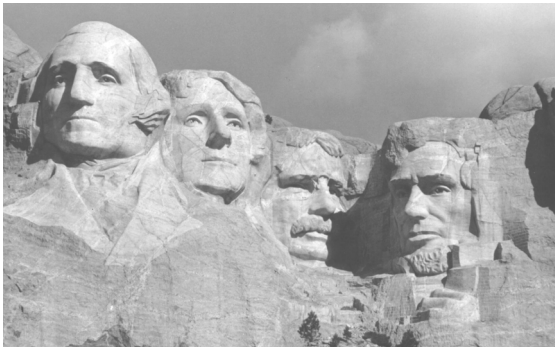
is created and manufactured exclusively in the Black Hills. Each design incorporates the motif of grapes and leaves in tri-color combinations of green, rose and yellow gold.

**State Gemstone - Fairburn**

**Agate** - is a semi-precious stone first discovered near Fairburn, SD. Found primarily in an area extending from Orella, NE to Farmingdale, SD, it is used in jewelry and is a favorite of rock collectors.

**State Mineral - Rose Quartz**

is mined in the southern Black Hills. It was discovered near Custer, SD, in the 1880s and is used primarily for ornaments and jewelry.

**State Nickname - Mount**

**Rushmore State** - became official in 1992. Before that South Dakota was known as the "Sunshine State" or the "Coyote State."

**State Fish - Walleye** - (*Stizostedion vitreum*) is the fish most sought after by South Dakota anglers. It is fine eating and one of the most challenging adversaries an angler can face. Found in lakes and rivers across the state, walleyes are most common in the Missouri River system and in the Glacial Lakes area of northeastern South Dakota. The state record walleye, a 15 pound 3 ounce beauty, was caught in Lake Sharpe just a few miles from Pierre. Photo by South Dakota Tourism



**State Musical Instrument - Fiddle** - The fiddle was designated the official state musical instrument of the state in 1989. Wilbur Foss, a Scotland native originated the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers Association. The association has been in existence for over thirty (30) years.

### **State Tree - Black Hills Spruce**

(*Picea glauca densata*) is a member of the evergreen family. The pyramid shaped tree is characterized by dense foliage of short bluegreen needles and slender cones.



**State Dessert - Kuchen** -- that quintessential German Russian pastry -- is a sweet dough crust filled with custard which is sometimes served plain or studded with fruit of all kinds. There's prune kuchen and peach, apple and blueberry. Kuchen was designated as the official state dessert in 2000.

Try this recipe for Apple Kuchen and taste for yourself!



*For the crust:*

2 cups flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter,  
cold and cut into pieces

*For the topping:*

2 tablespoons sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
3 Granny Smith apples, peeled, if desired,  
cored, and thinly sliced

*For the filling:*

1 pound cream cheese, at room temperature  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 egg, at room temperature

*Preheat the oven to 450 degrees.*

*Lightly grease and flour a 9x13-inch pan.*

*Cooking Time: 35 minutes*

Place the flour, sugar, and salt in a large bowl or food processor fitted with a steel blade and mix to combine. Add the vanilla and butter, a little at a time. Press into the baking pan and bake in oven until slightly golden but not brown, about 12 to 15 minutes. Cool.

Lower the oven temperature to 400 degrees.

To make the filling: Mix the cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla in mixer (preferably with a paddle) and beat until creamy. Add the egg, mix to combine, and pour over the cooled crust.

Place the sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl and mix to combine.

Place the apples on top of the filling in two or three columns. Sprinkle with the cinnamon sugar and transfer to the oven. Bake until firm and a rich brown, about 20 minutes. Cut into 20 to 24 pieces.

**State Sport – Rodeo** - became the official sport of the State of South Dakota in 2003.



Photo S.D. Tourism

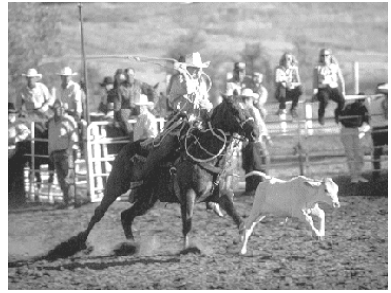


Photo S.D. Tourism

**State Bread – Fry Bread**-With House Bill 1205 the 2005 Legislature designated fry bread as the official bread of South Dakota.



**State Song - "Hail South Dakota"** - is the official state song, adopted in 1943. It is a marching song composed by Deecort Hammitt.

Hail! South Dakota, A great state of the land,  
Health, wealth and beauty, That's what makes her grand;  
She has her Black Hills, And mines with gold so rare,  
And with her scenery, No other state can compare.

Come where the sun shines, And where life's worth your while,  
You won't be here long, 'Till you'll wear a smile;  
No state's so healthy, And no folk quite so true,  
To South Dakota. We welcome you.

Hail! South Dakota, The state we love the best,  
Land of our fathers, Builders of the west;  
Home of the Badlands, and Rushmore's ageless shrine,  
Black Hills and prairies, Farmland and Sunshine.  
Hills, farms and prairies, Blessed with bright Sunshine.